

Wycombe lead and then lose 2-1

Sports Mail Special Report

FIVE points clear of their nearest Isthmian League rivals, Wycombe Wanderers threatened to demoralise St. Albans with their wing-to-wing attacking football this afternoon. Only cruel luck kept the Wycombe half-time lead down to one goal, then they slumped to 2-1 defeat.

St. Albans: Kershaw, Clarke, Payne, Southern, Darby, Walby, Falconer, Greenwood, Hopkins, King, Smith.

Wycombe Wanderers: Syrett, Beck, Moring, Truett, Fisher, Weaver, Atkins, Trott, Bates, Rockall, Free. Referee: Mr. B. J. Matthews.

St. Albans went off in a rush, but it was Wycombe, who nearly opened the scoring when Rockall headed over an awkward centre from Atkins.

The Wycombe defence impressed with its cool anticipation, Beck, Fisher and Moring stopping City moves with ease. A 30-yard drive from international Walby went flying over the bar, but Wanderers were unruffled.

The lively Rockell was prominent in Wycombe attacks.

Bates was leading the line well, and one of his runs let in Free for a scorching long-range drive. The ball nearly skidded into the net off the goalkeeper.

PAST THE POST

Facing his old club, winger Atkins formed a dangerous partnership with Trott, and from one of his passes Bates sent a drive flashing past the post.

Wycombe, easily containing the City attacks, were doing anything but score until an exciting run by full back John

Beck gave Wycombe the goal they long deserved. TROTT calmly netted from Beck's pass.

Half-time: St. Albans 0, Wycombe 1.

There was a complete transformation in the second half, City attacking continuously with more method and power than they had shown before.

A brilliant save by Syrett stopped an equaliser, but he had no chance at all with a 57th-minute header from HOPKINS. The City kept up a non-stop onslaught.

A harmless looking cross by Smith put Wycombe behind after 80 minutes. GREENWOOD nipped smartly in between the backs and goalkeeper to slam the ball into the goal.

RESULT:

ST. ALBANS 2
WYCOMBE W. 1

WYCOMBE ZIP PETERS OUT

St. Albans 2, Wycombe 1

ST. ALBANS were magnificent. After being under continual pressure for the first 50 minutes they hit back superbly and rocked championship chasing Wanderers with some powerful attacking football.

The Wycombe forwards, moving with speed and class, had the City defence in a flat spin in a one-sided first half. But after the interval St. Albans roving centre-forward Graham Hopkins brought about a surprising transportation.

Had it not been for the brilliance of Syrett in the Wycombe goal the margin would have been greater.

Bates, the Wycombe leader, was a constant menace to the St. Albans defence in the first half and his defence-splitting passes enabled Trott to give the Wanderers the lead with a shot from close in.

Falconer missed badly for St. Albans when well placed and at the other end a Bate power drive was pushed on to the bar by Kershaw in the City goal.

Hopkins headed the St. Albans equaliser following good work by Smith and Falconer in the 57th minute.

From then on it was all St. Albans and the Smith shot was well saved by Syrett. Darby completely dominated the middle and the Wycombe forwards had a lean time in the second half.

The entire St. Albans front line moved with method and punch and Wycombe were hard pressed to hold them. City full backs Clarke and Payne had the Wycombe wingers tied up.

City's winner came in the 75th minute when Greenwood nipped in between Wycombe defenders to score.